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ANTICORRUPTION STRATEGY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Corruption as the first form of authority emerged even B.C. Earlier it was a way of describing the moral health of the society but nowadays, corruption is associated with individual behavior. Corruption means a state of decay, and it is defined as “the abuse of entrusted power for private gain”. [1, p.2]

Much attention has been given the study of corruption over the last decades. It is still a debated issue and a multivariate phenomenon. There is individual corruption “when an institution or its officials receive a benefit that does not serve the institution and on the contrary institutional corruption “when an institution or its agent receives a benefit that is directly useful to performing an institutional function”. [2, p.3]

Britain was one of the first countries to pass the first “Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act 1889”. Since then the country has managed to achieve high results in combating corruption, and it is actively fighting against this phenomenon nowadays.

“The Prevention of Corruption Act 1906, “The Prevention of Corruption Act 1916”, “The Representation of the People Act 1983”, and the Law “On Bribery of 2010” ensure an effective combination of legal and sociopsychological levels of corruption prevention.

Corruption is not indigenous to the United Kingdom, but still there are important problems to be solved. In 2011 Transparency International UK (TI-UK) examined the level of corruption in 23 UK main sectors and institutions and reported vulnerabilities in them. The research showed the threat of corruption and the fact that key institutions (prisons, political parties, parliament and sport) refuse to confront the problem. Such scandals as phone hacking corruption in cricket, and controversy over political party funding revealed the urgent need to address the problem. In 2020 the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) in UK was 77 (the 11th out of 180 countries) versus 81 (the 10th out of 167 countries) in 2015.

There are two main government departments responsible for combating corruption: the UK Anticorruption Agency and the UK Committee on Standards in Public Life. They focus on the business community, i.e. not only on the “beneficiary” (a representative of the public sector) but also on the “benefactor” (any subject). Such terms as “bribe taker” and “bribe giver” (often the initiator who offers a reward to an official in return for providing him with a certain benefit) are not used since they narrow the area of benefits because it expands the field of struggle but in many countries fight is limited only against the “beneficiary”.

The main principle of their work is preventive measures, i.e. the development of ethics of public figures and civil servants, and their training. Such

measures are very important since an official who acts in accordance with ethical standards and norms may have a negative attitude towards corruption, and subsequently it leads to the formation of high standards of behavior.

Anticorruption Agency coordinates the work of business structures, supports ethical business abroad through consultations on anticorruption legislation, helps companies develop codes of ethics.

It also advises private companies on international anticorruption laws and cooperates with government trade and investment organizations that have extensive overseas contacts for UK companies.

The Anticorruption Agency assists enterprises in developing codes of ethics which affect the culture of company personnel in reducing the level of corruption. The effectiveness of such measures is due to the company's interest in the formation of an internal corporate culture that does not acknowledge corruption, and the correct implementation of such codes.

The Anticorruption Department maintains a website "Anticorruption Business Portal", its task is to inform commercial structures about the level of corruption in foreign countries. This is an important task because provided information helps entrepreneurs to start business abroad correctly.

The UK Committee on Standards in Public Life is independent of government bodies. It analyzes the behavior of public officials and civil servants and various agreements including financial ones, makes suggestions for changes in agreements in order to maintain high standards of conduct in the public sphere, and considers issues related to the financing of parties. The members of the Committee are obliged to follow the rules of Committee functioning. It was the Committee on Standards in Public Life that developed and formulated "The Seven Principles of the Public Sphere" which form the basis of ethical behavior and all ethical recommendations to public figures and civil servants.

On 27 April 2021, the UK implemented "The Global Anticorruption Sanctions Regulations" which enable the UK Foreign Secretary to impose asset freezes and travel bans on designated individuals and entities linked to certain corrupt activities, and criminalizes the breach of those sanctions within the UK. Its purpose is to prevent and combat serious governmental corruption by stopping those involved from entering and channelling money through the UK.

References

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